

Highlights

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February 2005

QuickBooks Training - University Extension is now offering QuickBooks training for small business owners at the Hall-McCarter Education Center, 5000 NW Valley View Road, Blue Springs, MO. Options include QuickBooks Basics, QuickBooks Workshop and Intermediate QuickBooks. For a schedule of classes, go to www.kcclasslink.com and click on Recordkeeping. Barbara Cunningham, Business Development Specialist, 792-7760.

New 4-H Youth Specialist - Margaret "Meg" Sage Mach joined the staff on February 7th as the new 4-H Youth Specialist. Working as a 4-H agent, as a program assistant in State 4-H Office and in after school programming, Meg has worked in youth development for the past 10 years. A former 4-Her she has a bachelor's degree in Meat and Animal Science and a master's degree in Leadership Education. Meg is looking forward to building the club program here in Jackson County. Welcome Meg Sage Mach.

Premarital Interpersonal Choices and Knowledge - P.I.C.K. Singles of all ages will learn about areas to explore in the premarital relationship and gain an in-depth understanding of the practical applications of the relationship attachment model and decision-making process to achieve the lasting, satisfying marriages. Nina Chen, Human Development Specialist, 252-5051.

Horse Bowl Competition - Jackson County 4-H will be hosting a regional Horse Bowl Competition on Saturday, February 26th. The objective is to provide an opportunity for youth interested in the 4-H Horsemanship projects to demonstrate their knowledge of equine related subject matter in a competitive setting where attributes of friendliness and fairness prevail. This contest will provide an educational experience for both participants and spectators. Meg Sage Mach, 4-H Youth Specialist, 252-5051.

2005 Annual Meeting – Jackson County annual meeting and Awards Dinner will be held February 24, at Drumm Farm Golf Club. We will present awards to staff and volunteers and install the newly elected office of the Jackson County Extension Council. The Business meeting starts at 6:00 and will be followed by dinner and a short program.

Master Gardeners Hotline Reopens – On March 1 Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City will reopen its Gardening Hotline. The Hotline, staffed by volunteer Master Gardeners is open March 1 to October 31, Monday through Friday 9:00 – 3:00. The public is invited to call the hotline 833-8733 (TREE) where Master Gardeners are available to answer gardening questions. In 2004, the Hotline fielded 2,200 gardening calls from area residents. The Master Gardener Program is a University of Missouri public service program aimed at providing unbiased, research-based horticultural information and education. The program is administered through the University of Missouri Extension Jackson County. To become a certified Master Gardener, participants must complete classroom training and volunteer service administered by the Extension office. Among the volunteer opportunities are; The Hotline, the Children’s Program, the Horticulture Therapy, Speaker’s Bureau, and the Flower, Lawn and Garden Show. For more information on the Master Gardener Program, contact Lala Kumar, Horticulture Specialist, 252-5051.

Upcoming Events:

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| February 7
14,21, 28 | Extension Center, Blue Springs
Nina Chen Human Development Specialist |
| February 10 | See as a Child, Feel as a Child, University of Missouri
Extension Center, Blue Springs
Nina Chen Human Development Specialist |
| February 22 | Helping Kids Eat Healthy University of Missouri
Extension Center, Blue Springs
Nina Chen Human Development Specialist |
| March 9 | Family Caregiving - Normal Aging
Guadalupe Center, Kansas City
Nina Chen Human Development Specialist |
| March 23 | Family Caregiving - Home Safety
Guadalupe Center, Kansas City
Nina Chen Human Development Specialist |

Questions can be directed to any specialist or Cynthia Zluticky, County Program Director, 252-5051.

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